

WE CLAIM:

1. An image enlarging apparatus comprising:

an imaging means for outputting a photographed
image of a subject wherein a vertical line count and
5 horizontal line count of the output image are greater than
a vertical line count and horizontal line count of a
television format;

an image cropping means for cropping the
photographed image and generating a cropped image in which
10 the vertical line count and horizontal line count of the
photographed image are adjusted to match the vertical line
count and horizontal line count of the television format;
and

an enlargement processing means for enlarging
15 the cropped image.

2. An image enlarging apparatus as described in
claim 1, wherein the image cropping means specifies on the
photographed image a start point at one corner of a
20 rectangular cropped image and an end point at a diagonally
opposite corner of the rectangular cropped image.

3. An image enlarging apparatus as described in
claim 1, further comprising a cropping area determining
25 means for setting the location of the cropped image in the
photographed image.

4. An image enlarging apparatus as described in
claim 1, further comprising an image compression
30 processing means disposed parallel to the image cropping
means for compressing the photographed image so that the
vertical line count and horizontal line count of the
photographed image match the vertical line count and
horizontal line count of the television format, and
35 generating a compressed image; and

a switching means for selecting the cropped image or compressed image, and sending the selected image to the enlargement processing means.

5 5. An image enlarging method comprising steps of:
 producing a photographed image of a subject
 wherein a vertical line count and horizontal line count of
 the output image are greater than a vertical line count
 and horizontal line count of a television format;

10 cropping the photographed image and generating a
 cropped image in which the vertical line count and
 horizontal line count of the photographed image are
 adjusted to match the vertical line count and horizontal
 line count of the television format; and

15 enlarging the cropped image.

 6. An image enlarging method as described in claim
 5, wherein the image cropping process specifies on the
 photographed image a start point at one corner of a
 rectangular cropped image and an end point at a diagonally
20 opposite corner of the rectangular cropped image.

 7. An image enlarging method as described in claim
 5, further comprising a step of setting the location of
25 the cropped image in the photographed image.

 8. An image enlarging method as described in claim
 5, further comprising steps of:

30 compressing the photographed image so that the
 vertical line count and horizontal line count of the
 photographed image match the vertical line count and
 horizontal line count of the television format, and
 generating a compressed image; and

35 selecting the cropped image or compressed image,
 and enlarging the selected image.